

Hampton Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 2nd, 2023

7:00 PM

Town Hall Community Room

Upper Level

The meeting of the Hampton Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:17 PM by First Selectman Allan Cahill. Also present was Selectman John Tillinghast, members of the public, and Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant. Unable to attend was Selectman Bob Grindle.

2. Audience for Citizens:

Diane Meade noted Hampton has a high elderly population and dwindling youth population, and would like a day room established at the elementary school if possible. Ms. Meade noted the need for child and elder care employment opportunities, and perhaps the town or Gazette could do a survey of the town population for what could be offered. The school has available space and is handicapped accessible, the 5th and 6th graders could possibly read with the seniors, and perhaps some type of internship could be established with the high school for school credit. She also requested her concerns/observations be shared with the agent for the elderly.

Mark Samios wanted to know what the referendum questions accomplished, and were bids sent out for the projects. Mr. Samios would like to see the RFP's that were sent out, and the responses received. Were there specifications for the tennis/pickleball court restorations at the town hall? What did they include? Tennis and pickleball are two distinct sports. Jessica Samios commented she had tried to reach out Mr. Cahill and then the selectmen, but received a response from Mr. Tillinghast alone. She also asked if it would be limited to pickleball or tennis since those games require different court lining. Mr. Cahill noted Kevin Grindle had worked with the Town of Mansfield for pickleball courts and made recommendations of companies that specialized in that line of work.

Ms. Samios also noted there are often a lot of lights on when she passed the town campus, and Mr. Cahill responded he considered public safety in a public space when managing lighting, the bulbs were LED's which are economical. Residents walk frequently in the roadways, Hampton does not have sidewalks, and safety remains a concern for him.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 7, 2023: **John Tillinghast moved to approve the minutes of September 7, 2023. Allan Cahill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

4. Communications:

First Selectman Cahill noted the majority of communications received this month were due to the rain storm of September 13. He and Mr. Sholes have been working to correct water damage throughout the town. Parker Road has been the most critical site of damage. Alex Bass has 2 more days of training to complete before he can be named the tree warden for Hampton.

Mr. Cahill noted the auditor (Stephen Hopkins) was at the town hall for 2 days last week to start the audit.

The Fall Festival was very successful, weather notwithstanding, but he was discouraged the STEAP grant for Little River Parcel was denied, however; we did get the reimbursement for Sarah Pearl Road, and State Senator Pat Boyd has secured funding for a new ambulance which will be housed at the Pomfret Station. Mr. Cahill has also signed the contract for the Code Red alert system, and it will go out tomorrow. He was also pleased both referendum questions were approved.

5. Financial Report: The report was distributed. No questions.

6. Tax Collector's Report: The report was distributed, and Selectman Tillinghast wanted to note the August report shows a 51.6% collection. **Allan Cahill moved to accept the tax collector's report. John Tillinghast seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

A. Refunds: None

7. Appointments: None

8. Board/Committee/Commission Minutes/reports for review: None

9. Additions to the Agenda: None

10. Old Business:

A. Referendum results and Project Timelines: Question 1 passed with a tally of 86 yes to 26 no, and Question 2 passed with a tally of 81 yes to 31 no. Mr. Cahill hopes a bulk of the projects can be at least started before winter sets in.

11. New Business: None

12. Audience for Citizens:

Mark Samios asked if any of the new funds would be used to update the town website. Jessica Samios would like more communications through the mailing list.

Marcia Kilpatrick was wondering if anything can be done about the speeding that is apparent on town roads. Perhaps there's an electronic sign that can alert motorists to slow down, and how fast the noted travel speed exceeds the speed limit. John Russell

also observed motorists traveling at high rates of speed, as well as Ms. Samios as motorists travel through some of the side roads. Mr. Cahill noted there does seem to be more and more speeders going through the town.

John Tillinghast moved to adjourn at 7:39 PM. Allan Cahill seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Administrative Assistant